

## PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST TERRORISTS?

One way to invigorate US intelligence would be to "develop an entirely new capability to proactively, pre-emptively evoke responses from adversary/terrorist groups," according to the Defense Science Board, a Pentagon advisory group. Such an approach would "improve information collection by stimulating reactions" from the target.

In what may well be the largest expansion of covert action by the armed forces since the Vietnam War era, the Bush administration has turned to what the Pentagon calls the "black world" to press the "War on Terrorism" and weapons of mass destruction.

The Defense Department is building up an elite secret army with resources stretching across the full spectrum of covert capabilities. New organisations are being created. The missions of existing units are being revised. Spy planes and ships are being assigned to new missions in anti-terror and monitoring of the "Axis of Evil".

Even with all this, the Pentagon wants to expand covert capabilities. Donald Rumsfeld's influential board recommends creation of a super-Intelligence Support Activity, an organisation it dubs the Proactive, Pre-emptive Operations Group, (P2OG), to bring together CIA and military covert action, information warfare,



intelligence, and cover and deception.

Among other things, this body would launch secret operations aimed at "stimulating reactions" among terrorists and states possessing weapons of mass destruction—that is, for instance, prodding terrorist cells into action and exposing themselves to "quick-response" attacks by US forces.

Such tactics, the briefing paper declares, would hold "states/sub-state actors accountable" and "signal to harboring states that their sovereignty will be at risk".

(Sources: LA Times, October 27, 2002; Secrecy News, October 28, 2002)

## UK PRESS GAGGED OVER MI5'S £100,000 BIN LADEN PAYOFF

On the evening of October 7, British Prime Minister Tony Blair ordered a D-Notice on the UK media's reporting of government officials signing court gag orders. This regards the case of former MI5 officer David Shayler, who claims evidence to prove MI6 gave £100,000 to Osama bin Laden and al-Qa'ida, sent arms to Iraq and had prior knowledge of several terrorist attacks on London in the 1990s.

The original articles stated that top Labour MPs had signed gag orders whereby, upon mention of this evidence in court, media immediately have to leave the trial.

Newspapers all over the country, including the *Guardian*, the *London Evening Standard* and the *Scotsman*, either completely removed or amended their articles.

Shayler, 36, faces two charges under section one of the Official Secrets Act, for disclosing documents and information about the work of MI5, and another under section four, for disclosing information about telephone taps.

He has failed so far to win his argument that his revelations were in the public interest.

"I aim to persist in my argument that the Official Secrets Act as it currently stands is totally incompatible with the Human Rights Act," he told a newspaper.

Some of the hearing is expected to be taken up by an application by newspapers objecting to plans to hold parts of the trial in secret.

The prosecution applied for hearings to be held in camera after its concerns that Shayler will make fresh allegations to the jury to back up his public-interest defence.

Shayler's decision to defend himself, against the advice of his legal team, for part of the trial was prompted by the belief that he will be freer to argue his case than his barrister, Geoffrey Robertson, QC, whose hands are tied by earlier court rulings.

For an overview of the background of the Shayler case, visit David Shayler's official website, <http://www.Shayler.com>. (Source: By Paul Joseph Watson, October 9, 2002, via [http://www.propagandamatrix.com/shayler\\_gate.html](http://www.propagandamatrix.com/shayler_gate.html))



## WISCONSIN MIRACLE PROVES DIET AFFECTS BEHAVIOUR

A quiet revolution has begun in Appleton, Wisconsin, USA. It started at the Central Alternative High School. The children now behave. The hallways aren't frantic. Even the teachers are happy.

The school used to be out of control. Kids packed weapons. Discipline problems swamped the principal's office. But not since 1997.

In 1997, a private group called Natural Ovens, of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, underwrote a Wellness and Nutrition Program at the school. A natural bakery founded by Paul Stitt, a food biochemist, and Barbara Stitt, who has a PhD in nutrition, Natural Ovens contributed over US\$100,000 for the construction of a kitchen, provided two cooks and paid excess food bills at the high school. Teachers as well as students committed themselves to the program. And before implementing it, the staff removed all soda and junk-food vending machines from the buildings.

The menu consists of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads, homemade soups, stews and entrées. One important item that is available to the students and teachers each day is the "energy drink", consisting of fruit juice, whole fruit and ground flax "energy mix". The flax contains omega-3 fatty acids that are known to provide important nutrients for brain functioning.

The behaviour, stamina, attitude and health of the students and staff have improved for the better. Staff members report improved attention, improvements in attendance and cooperation among students and willingness to tackle complex concepts. Students report that they are also incorporating better nutrition outside of school. Grades are up, truancy is no longer a problem, arguments are rare, and teachers are able to spend their time teaching.

The program, now in its fourth year, has been an overwhelming success and is being adopted in other Wisconsin schools.

Principal LuAnn Coenen, who files annual reports with the

state of Wisconsin, has turned in some staggering figures since 1997. Drop-outs? Students expelled? Students discovered to be using drugs? Carrying weapons? Committing suicide? Every category has come up zero, every year.

(Sources: Pfeiffer Pfacts, Illinois, USA, Summer 2002, <http://www.hriptc.org>; The Moore Report, <http://www.moorefoundation.com/newsletter4.html>; Stratia Wire, October 14, 2002, <http://www.stratiawire.com>)

## US MILITARY'S SPACE DOMINANCE STRATEGY

The US Department of Defense (DoD) is drafting a space control strategy, with a sweeping review looking outward over the next 20 years. Concurrently, DoD is developing a national security space plan, spelling out broad objectives and priorities for a spectrum of space-based programs. Once put in place, the space control plan would assure freedom of action in space for America as well as her allies.

Central to the space-control doctrine is denying an adversary's action in Earth orbit. Counter-strike skills could come through surveillance, protection of satellites, prevention of any enemy attack, as well as knocking out a hostile spacecraft.

In a September 23 report, the General Accounting Office (GAO) notes that the US Air Force is the primary procurer and operator of space systems. That military branch is expected to spend about 86 per cent of some US\$165 billion dedicated for space in fiscal years 2002 through 2007—a total far larger than the Navy, Army and other Defense agencies.

Some space control systems are classified. Other spacecraft networks or systems under development include a "space-based

surveillance system" and a "rapid attack identification and reporting system".

The GAO study explains that the US Air Force is the future "executive agent for space". As such, the Air Force is working towards cutting bureaucratic red tape. DoD anticipates that the new time-squeezing steps can cut key decision-making milestones from about 8 to 12 months to about 8 to 12 weeks.

(Source: Space News, USA, October 15, 2002, [http://www.space.com/news/space\\_control\\_021015.html](http://www.space.com/news/space_control_021015.html))

## MOBILE PHONE RADAR SYSTEM WILL TRACK OUR EVERY MOVE

Secret radar technology research that will allow the biggest-ever extension of "Big Brother"-style surveillance in the UK is being funded by the government.

The radical new system, which has outraged civil liberties groups, uses mobile phone masts to allow security authorities to watch vehicles and individuals "in real time" almost anywhere in Britain.

The technology "sees" the shapes made when radio waves emitted by mobile phone masts meet an obstruction. Signals bounced back by immobile objects, such as walls or trees, are filtered out by the receiver. This allows anything moving, such as cars or people, to be tracked. Previously, radar needed massive fixed equipment to work and transmissions from mobile phone masts were thought too weak to be useful.

The system works wherever a mobile phone can pick up a signal. By using receivers attached to mobile phone masts, users of the new technology could focus in on areas hundreds of miles away and bring up a display showing any moving vehicles and people.

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NUCLEAR PLANT  
AHEAD



WAR ON TERRORISM



INSURANCE  
IN PROGRESS

An individual with one type of receiver, a portable unit little bigger than a laptop computer, could even use it as a "personal radar" covering the area around the user. Researchers are working to give the new equipment "X-ray vision"—the capability to "see" through walls and look into people's homes.

UK Ministry of Defence officials are hoping to introduce the system as soon as resources allow. Police and security services are known to be interested in a variety of possible surveillance applications. The researchers themselves say the system, known as *Celldar*, is aimed at anti-terrorism defence, security and road traffic management.

(Source: Observer, London, October 14, 2002, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/mobile/article/0,2763,811034,00.html>)

## BRAIN TUMOUR CAUSES PAEDOPHILIA TENDENCIES

The sudden and uncontrollable paedophilia tendencies exhibited by a 40-year-old man were caused by an egg-sized brain tumour, his doctors recently told a scientific conference. And once the tumour had been removed, his sex-obsession disappeared. The cancer was located in the right lobe of the orbitofrontal cortex, which is known to be tied to judgement, impulse control and social behaviour.

Neurologists Russell Swerdlow and Jeffrey Burns, of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, believe this is the first reported case linking damage to that region

of the brain with paedophilia.

"He wasn't faking," says Burns. "But if someone argues that every paedophile needs an MRI, the difference in this case was that the patient had a normal history before he acquired the problem. Most paedophiles develop problems early on in life."

The man, a schoolteacher, began secretly visiting child pornography websites and soliciting prostitutes at massage parlours—activities he had not engaged in previously. When the man's wife found out, he was legally evicted from his house, found guilty of child molestation and medicated for paedophilia.

After he was remanded to psychiatric care, he complained of balance problems. An MRI scan revealed an egg-sized brain tumour, but his behaviour returned to normal after the tumour was removed.

However, in October 2001, he started complaining of headaches and secretly began collecting pornography once more. Again, after an MRI scan revealed tumour regrowth and it was removed, the behaviour disappeared.

Swerdlow suggests that physicians who see personality changes coupled with an inability to write or copy pictures may now want to consider brain disease as a possible cause.

Behavioural neurologist David Rosenfield, of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, says: "They have an interesting patient. I would wonder whether the tumour caused hormonal changes."

Rosenfield thinks further research should investigate whether other problems with the orbitofrontal cortex can be linked to paedophilia.

Burns and Swerdlow presented their findings at the annual meeting of the American Neurological Association in New York.

(Source: BBC News, October 21, 2002, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>)

## VERICHIP LAUNCHED IN "GET CHIPPED" PROMOTION

Applied Digital Solutions, Inc., an advanced technology development company, has launched a national "Get Chipped" promotion for VeriChip, a subdermal personal verification microchip. The first 100,000 registrants and all qualified ADSX shareholders are eligible for a special introductory saving of \$50 at the time of "chipping".

The announcement came two days after a surprise ruling by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that VeriChip is not a regulated medical device "for security, financial, and personal identification/safety applications".

VeriChip is able to function as a stand-alone, tamper-proof personal verification technology, or it can operate in conjunction with other security technologies such as standard ID badges and advanced biometric devices (e.g., retina scanners, thumb-print readers or face-recognition devices). VeriChip can be used as a means for secure access to a range of consumer products such as PCs, laptops, cars, cellphones and even to homes and apartments. VeriChip is also expected to provide a solution to the problem of fraudulent access to bank accounts and to the growing crisis of identity theft.

VeriChip is a miniaturised radio-frequency identification device (RFID) that can be used in a variety of security, financial, emergency identification and health-care applications. About the size of a grain of rice, each VeriChip product contains a unique verification number and will be available in several formats, some of which will be insertable under the skin.

The verification number is captured by briefly passing a proprietary scanner over the VeriChip. A small amount of radio-frequency energy passes from the scanner, energising the dormant VeriChip, which then emits a radio-frequency signal transmitting the verification number.



"Getting chipped" is a simple outpatient procedure that lasts just a few minutes and involves only local anaesthetic and insertion of the chip.

(Source: ADS press release, October 24, 2002, <http://www.adxs.com>)

## RESISTANCE TO PESTICIDES GOES GLOBAL IN A FLASH

A single genetic mutation that protects fruit flies from the lethal effects of the insecticide DDT has spread around the world, almost instantly.

It is generally known that insects can spread genetic traits very rapidly, but no one has spotted a global takeover like this before. The discovery echoes similar research on the mosquito that carries the malaria parasite.

Scientists recently found that a DDT resistance gene in *Anopheles gambiae* had spread right up and down the west coast of tropical Africa.

Widespread use of DDT to control mosquitoes and crop pests began in 1945. The pesticide also killed off fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), so the tiny insects had to adapt or die.

And adapt they did. Richard French-Constant from Bath University and his team analysed 75 lab populations of fruit flies originally collected around the world in the 1960s. Of those, 28 were DDT-resistant, including flies from every continent except Antarctica.

Surprisingly, every resistant fly had precisely the same genetic change: the addition of a "jumping gene"—a short sequence of DNA that can insert itself into new locations in the genome.

It's very surprising that a single version of the gene is responsible for all DDT resistance, says Charles Godfray, an entomologist at Imperial College in London.

He is also struck by the fact that the mutation has stuck around even in laboratory strains that have never encountered DDT.

(Source: New Scientist, vol. 176, issue no. 2363, October 5, 2002)

Our thanks to readers from around the globe who email and post snippets and articles of interest.

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## EU LAWS WILL RESTRICT ACCESS TO HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS IN UK

Millions of Britons take herbal vitamin and mineral supplements, either as a preventive measure or to treat specific ailments. But they may not be able to for much longer...

If you're one of those who find such remedies useful, however, you'd better start stockpiling now. A raft of EU legislation looks set to nip the natural medicine market in the bud. Soon, that popular vitamin C, echinacea and zinc combination may not be allowed on the shelves. A shadow looms large over the alternative health sector.

Estimates of the impact of this new legislation vary, but hundreds of vitamin and mineral supplements could be banned outright, while an as-yet-incalculable number of common herbal remedies will disappear unless consumers challenge it. The National Association of Health Food Stores claims that as many as three-quarters of its members could go out of business. The writing is on the wall for small British supplement companies, which will be forced to reformulate entire ranges and invest massively in applying for new product licences.

The attack comes from four different pieces of legislation, one of which is already in force, another approved in principle. All are couched in the now familiar EU language of consumer safety and free trade. Currently, the UK, the Netherlands and Ireland have a far more permissive attitude towards supplements than other member states, and make available a wider range of higher-dose remedies. This approach is in line with those in the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. But those days are numbered.

The idea behind the new regulations is that, irrespective of whether you are a healthy Cretan living on fish, multiple fruit and vegetables and monounsaturated olive oil, or a typically sun-starved Brit existing on nutritionally impoverished processed food, you should have the same range and strength of supplements at your disposal.

Attack number one comes in the form of the Food Supplements Directive, which will set maximum levels for vitamins and minerals. Currently, consumers in the UK can buy high-strength vitamins in dosages that are way above what's known as the "recommended daily allowance" (RDA). In most other European countries, a much more restrictive range of vitamins and minerals, based on the RDA, is available. A likely EU consensus might set limits at only two or three times the RDA, representing a liberalisation for most European countries, but decimating the choice available to the British consumer.

The second attack takes the form of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive, which says that herbal remedies can only be licensed if they can be shown to be safe and produced to high standards. This means that herbal remedies will be licensed in the same way as drugs, often costing millions. Furthermore, to get a licence, a specific product must have been on the market for 30 years, 15 of which must have been in Europe.

There's a third prong to the attack, in the form of the Novel Foods Directive, which is already in force. This was originally designed to control genetically modified foods and new, so-called "functional" foods, such as fish oil-enriched bread, but is now being applied to absolutely everything that is sold under food law. Any food product (which includes supplements) that was not on the EU market before May 15, 1997, can only be granted approval after submission of a dossier containing huge amounts of technical and safety data. So far, a herbal sweetener and an immune system-boosting tonic have already been forced off the shelves as a result, and next in the line of fire is MSM, an increasingly popular organic sulphur that has been found to be effective in the treatment of joint problems. Even more worrying is that there is no appeals process under this directive.

The final attack seems on the surface to be an innocuous tidying-up of the EU Medicines Directive. But, in fact, it will mean that anything with a physiological action can be reclassified as a medicine—and under EU definitions, that means that any product sold in a health store, even herbal tea, could be deemed to be a medicine, while items such as coffee and grapefruit juice (which also have proven physiological effects, but which are sold in food shops) will not be affected. The new EU laws will say that a product must be either one or the other.

(Source: By Joanna Blythman, The Guardian, London, September 14, 2002, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekend/story/0,3605,790733,00.html>)